

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

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CONYERS CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION TO ADDRESS CATASTROPHIC CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement today.

“Today, I joined Congressman Frank Wolf and Senator Sam Brownback in convening a meeting on the catastrophic crisis in Darfur, Sudan that is escalating at an alarming rate. Every day the news reports convey a worsening situation where bombings, killings and rapes continue. One million lives are now at risk of death by starvation and dehydration.

One to two hundred people are dying every day and that rate could rise to four hundred a day by fall. The most vulnerable people who successfully escaped the violence - children, women and the physically infirm - are the first victims in the harsh desert environment. We need to urgently identify further steps that the Congress and the U.S. Government should immediately take to save lives and quell the attacks by the Janjaweed militants and the Sudanese government.

We will be meeting with policy and academic experts, including representatives of organizations that are currently working in Sudan and Chad, to share their expertise on this situation with us and to assist our development of a strategic plan for immediate action to save Sudanese lives.

We cannot be idle while another genocide occurs. We cannot trod through the slow path of diplomatic discussions and debates while tens of thousands die in a political conflict. We saw the result of our failure to quickly respond in Rwanda. We have learned lessons from the Holocaust, Cambodia, and Uganda. I believe that the U.S. must push the U.N. Security Council to act immediately. The Security Council must pass legislation to pressure the wrongdoers, enhance the monitoring forces and authorize a military response, if necessary. We must use all of our global leadership to bring nations together to abate and solve the political crisis while addressing the humanitarian crisis before a million people are lost to our inaction.”

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